SCANSLATED BY #WEHATEMANGA
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THE FIRST STAGE

Vol.3

ガチャ
OH, TWO SCHOOLYEARS.
HEY, TAKANO! IF YOU DON'T STRETCH FIRST, THE CAPTAIN WILL GET MAD!
WHO CARES?

HOW CAN YOU BE EXPECTED TO PLAY TENNIS IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE CAPTAIN?
1
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WHAT ?!
IT WAS RETURNED?
EH?
ドカーン
I AM
LET ME TELL YOU FRESH-MEN.
DO I LOOK LIKE A STUDENT?
HEY YOU, THE GIRL'S TENNIS CLUB IS OVER THERE. *
*THEY ADDRESS HER IN A WAY THAT ASSUMES SHE'S A STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL

NICE TO MEET YOU!
THE TENNIS CLUB ADVISOR AND COACH, NAKAHARA HARUCHIHO!
ARE YOU INJURED?
OH MY,
ADVISOR?
COACH?
COULD YOU BE
TAKANO EIJI ...?
SO ANNOYING!
THE EFFECTS OF REGULAR STRETCHING HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES.

WELL THEN EVERYONE, LET ME MAKE A BRIEF INTRODUC-TION.
COACH HARUCHIHO WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, MAINTAINED A NATIONAL RANKING IN THE TOP 5,
SHE PLAYED IN THE AIKEHIRO ATAEDANZAKI, AND WON THE FIERCEST COMPETITOR AWARD. *
AMAZING!
SHE WON THAT WORLD CLASS DANZAKI!
A TRULY SKILLED PERSON DOESN'T BRAG ABOUT THEIR PAST.
HOW IRRI-TATING!

*SORRY. THE TOURNAMENT NAME IS JUST THE PRONUNCIATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL KANJI CHARACTER, MY ONLINE JAP -> ENG TRANSLATOR COULDN'T FIND A MATCH FOR THE PHRASE.

BUT MY SPECIALTY IS TENNIS... SO IF YOU HAVE ANY TENNIS-RELATED QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK ME.
NORMALLY I TEACH GIRL'S GYM.

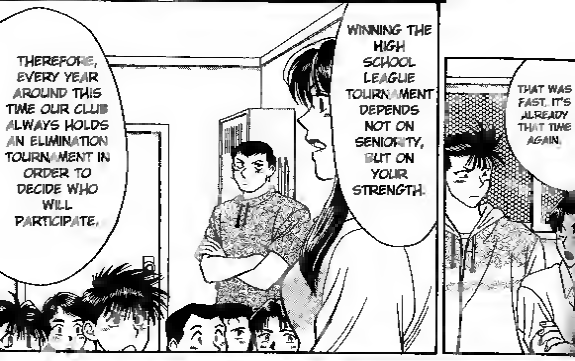
I SAID TENNIS-RELATED!
DO YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
SIZES ?

SINCE YOU WANT TO PLAY, THE CLUB MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO SET AS THEIR NUMBER ONE TARGET..
IF ANYONE DARES SCREW AROUND WHEN THEY PLAY TENNIS, I WILL THROW THEM OUT INTO THE STREETS!
LISTEN TO ME! I HATE TACTLESS PEOPLE!

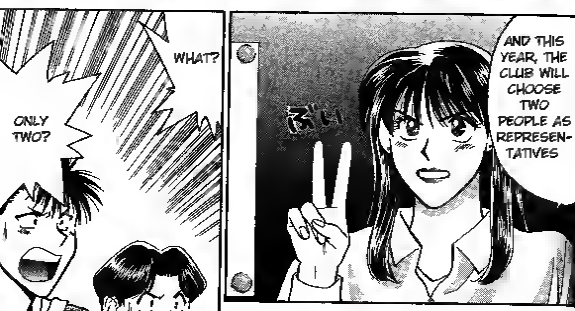
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOU.
I WANT TO GET A HEAD START ON PRAC-TICE.
HEY, EIJI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CAN YOU JUST LISTEN FOR A SEC?
REALLY, THEN BEFORE WE PRACTICE...
TAKANO YOU...
QUIET

AH!
スリ
COULD IT BE A TOURNAMENT?
BINGO!
DRA... DRAWS ...
ちょん
I'LL LISTEN!!!

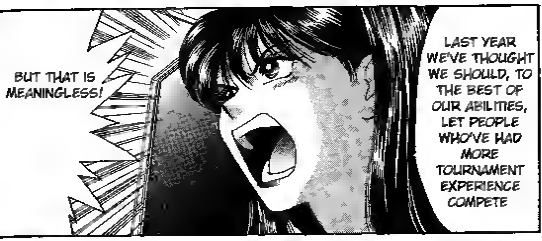
THEN I'LL START EXPLAINING.
RIGHT NOW THE NEW MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CLUB PROCEDURES
AFTER ONE MONTH, THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT PRELIMINARIES WILL BEGIN
HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT!

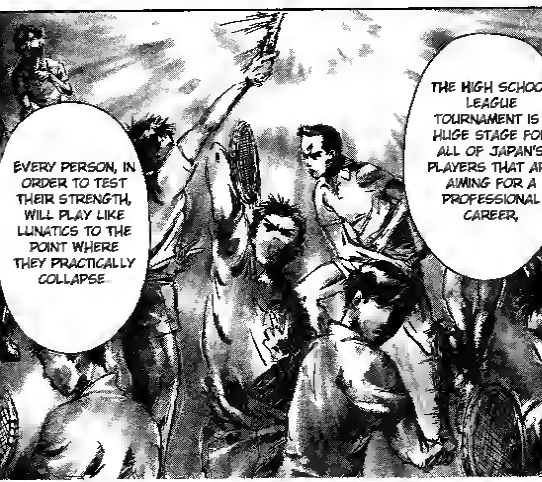

THEREFORE, EVERY YEAR AROUND THIS TIME OUR CLUB ALWAYS HOLDS AN ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHO WILL PARTICIPATE.
WINNING THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT DEPENDS NOT ON SENIORITY, BUT ON YOUR STRENGTH.
THAT WAS FAST. IT'S ALREADY THAT TIME AGAIN.

THE RESULTS AREN'T IN YET.
THEN THIS TIME I'LL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT.


WHAT?
ONLY TWO?
AND THIS YEAR, THE CLUB WILL CHOOSE TWO PEOPLE AS REPRESENTATIVES

WE HAD TO CHANGE THE RULES
LAST YEAR WE CHOSE FIVE PEOPLE...

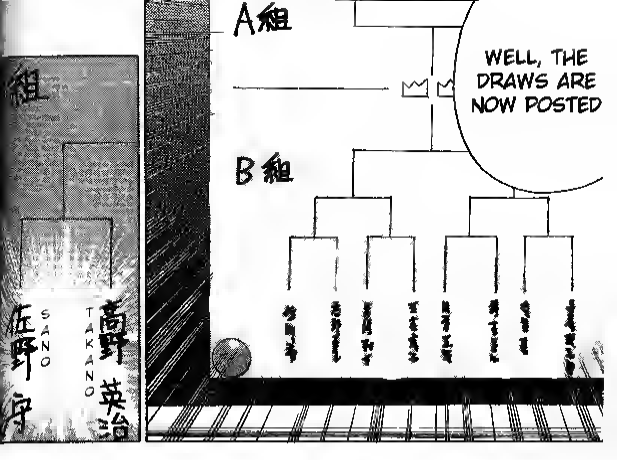

BUT THAT IS MEANINGLESS!
LAST YEAR WE'VE THOUGHT WE SHOULD, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES, LET PEOPLE WHO'VE HAD MORE TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE COMPETE


EVERY PERSON, IN ORDER TO TEST THEIR STRENGTH, WILL PLAY LIKE LUNATICS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY PRACTICALLY COLLAPSE.
THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT IS A HUGE STAGE FOR ALL OF JAPAN'S PLAYERS THAT ARE AIMING FOR A PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

THIS PRINCIPLE'S POOR SUCCESS RATE HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN.
TO CHALLENGE THE BATTLEFIELD, HAVING MANY MEN IS NOT THE ANSWER
ONLY THOSE WITH TRUE STRENGTH WILL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT!
REALLY FIERCE ..
REALLY
IT MAKES SENSE ...

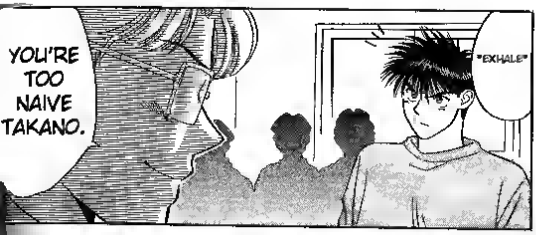
I WILL PARTICIPATE!
IF IT WASN'T THIS TOUGH, THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT IN GOING!
HE IS ALREADY TAKING UP THE DEMEANOR OF A WINNER!
JUST LIKE THE RUMORS SAY... NO, EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THE RUMORS!

ばんっ
ANYWAYS, THE TWO PEOPLE WHO REACH THE END OF THIS ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT IS ENOUGH FOR US.
RIGHT NOW WE'LL START DRAWING LOTS.
THE TOURNAMENT IS ON SUNDAY.
SO AS LONG AS WE DON'T FACE THE CAPTAIN WE'LL AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE.
EVERYONE IS GONNA GO LOOK AT THE DRAWS.
IN ANY CASE THE CAPTAIN DEFINITELY WILL BE ONE OF THE TWO.
NOW, THIRD YEAR SANO START, PLEASE.

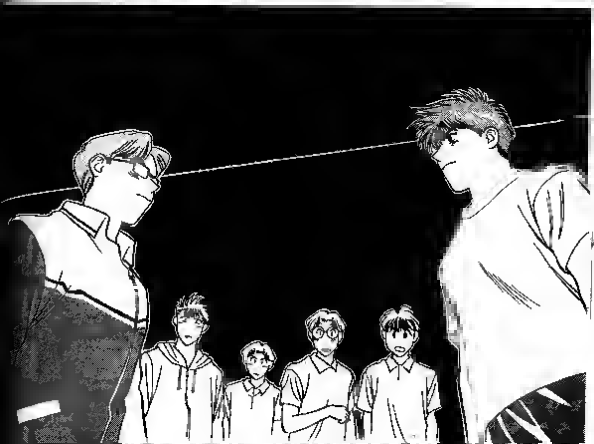

A組
B組
WELL, THE DRAWS ARE NOW POSTED
組
高野英治
TAKANO
佐野守
SANO

CONSTANT PRACTICE IS NOT IN VAIN!
ALRIGHT! SEE IT? MY GOLDEN RIGHT HAND'S LUCK!

THE CAPTAIN'S OPPONENT IS TAKANO!
IT'S OUT!
!!
PLAYING WITH THE CAPTAIN IS A SURE LOSS; THIS IS JUST PART OF OUR CAPTAIN'S FORMULA.
THIS GUY'S DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE.
CAPTAIN, NO HARD FEELINGS, BUT THIS TIME I'M NOT GONNA LOSE.


YOU'RE TOO NAIVE TAKANO.
"EXHALE"

WITH THAT LEVEL OF SKILL, YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME?



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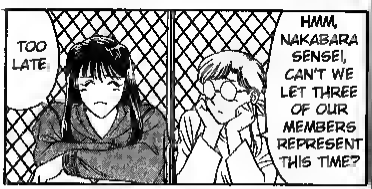
THE DAY OF THE MATCH!

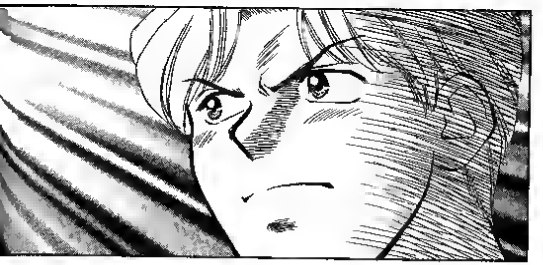


B GROUP
FIRST ROUND!
SANO VS TAKANO
BEST OF THREE SETS
HMM, I HOPE TAKANO DOESN'T QUIT IN THE MIDDLE...
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST TIME THEY PLAYED...

GAME ONE, SANO SERVES!

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT... THAT I WOULD PLAY TAKANO FIRST ROUND

BUT EVEN IF I DON'T PLAY WELL TODAY, I WON'T LOSE TO YOU.

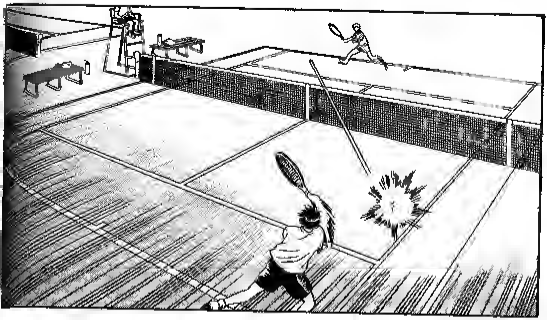


I'M GONNA SERVE, TAKANO

BRING IT !!!

ヒュン
THIS IS NOTHING!
ザッザッア

IF YOU KEEP ON BEING OVERCONFI-DENT, YOU MIGHT LOSE AGAIN!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE MORE CONFIDENT I GET THE STRONGER I BECOME?



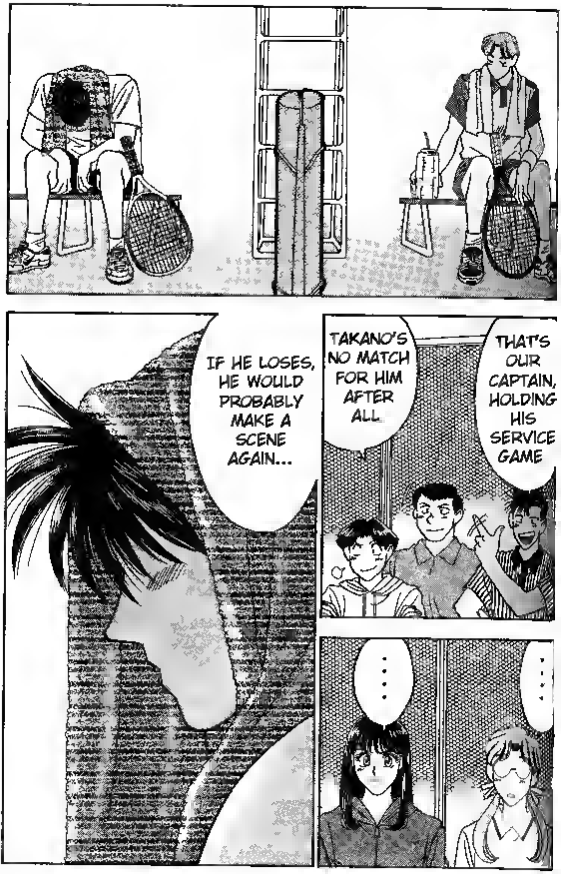
OOOH, TAKANO AND THE CAPTAIN ARE STARTING A NICE RALLY.

I HEARD THAT EIJI JUST LEARNED SPIN SHOTS FROM SANO A WEEK AGO...

TAKANO IS SO AWESOME! HE REALLY RETURNED IT!

TO BE ABLE TO HIT LIKE THAT IN JUST ONE WEEK IS TRULY AMAZING!
IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE LEARNED THIS WITHIN ONE WEEK!
HE CAN EVEN BACKHAND SPIN CORRECTLY!

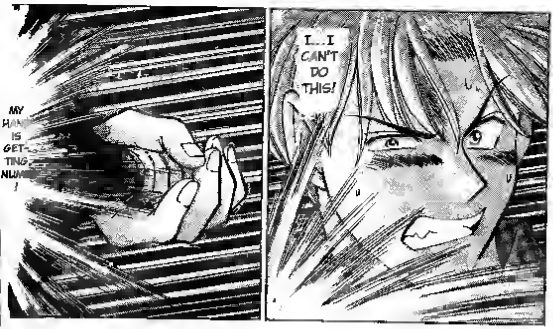
HE MIGHT BE A GOOD RIVAL FOR SANO!
Room 1
END OF GAME ONE! SANO LEADS 1-0!

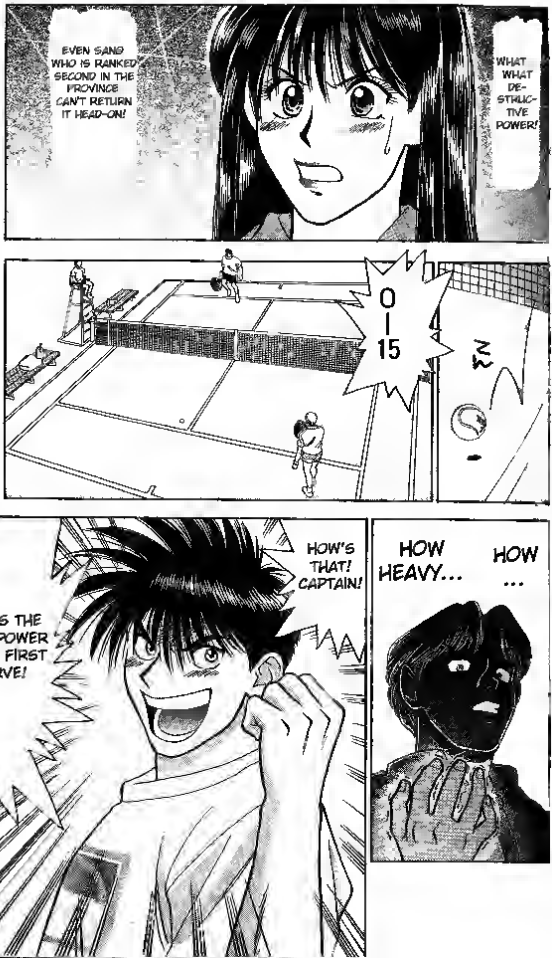

IF HE LOSES, HE WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A SCENE AGAIN...
TAKANO'S NO MATCH FOR HIM AFTER ALL
THAT'S OUR CAPTAIN, HOLDING HIS SERVICE GAME
. . . .
. . . .

GAME TWO.
TAKANO
SERVES!
ポン
ポン

THIS IS WHAT I'M PROUD OF...
TAKE THIS!
"IT" IS COMING AGAIN!

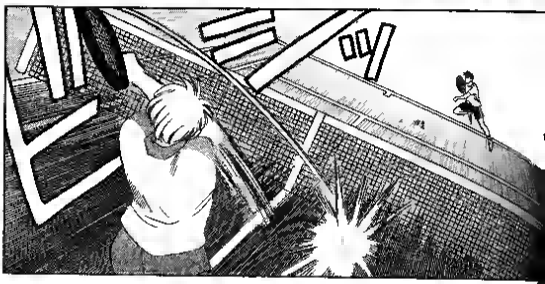
IT'S COMING!
WHAT? CAN'T SEE THE BALL!
OOHHH!


MY HAN IS GET-TING NUMB!
I...I CAN'T DO THIS!

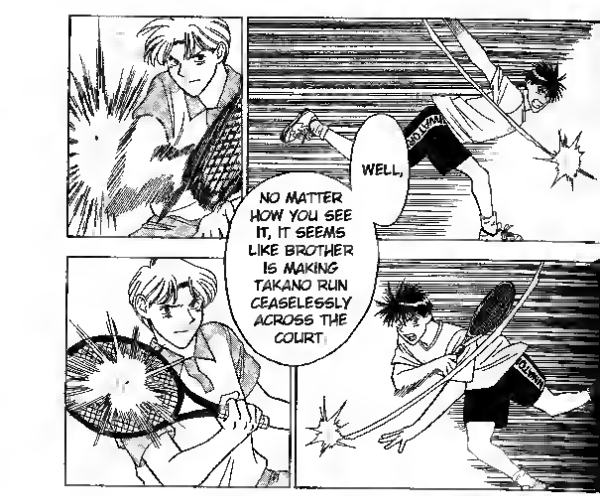

EVEN SANO WHO IS RANKED SECOND IN THE PROVINCE CAN'T RETURN IT HEAD-ON!
WHAT WHAT DE-STRUC-TIVE POWER!
0 — 15
HOW'S THAT! CAPTAIN!
THAT'S THE TRUE POWER OF MY FIRST SERVE!
HOW HEAVY...
HOW ...

WHAT THE HELL? DON'T TELL ME...
WOULD LOSE TO TAKANO?
THE #2 RANKED SANO...

GAME
PREVIOUS SETS
40
佐野
1
1 2 3 4
15
高野
4


DO!

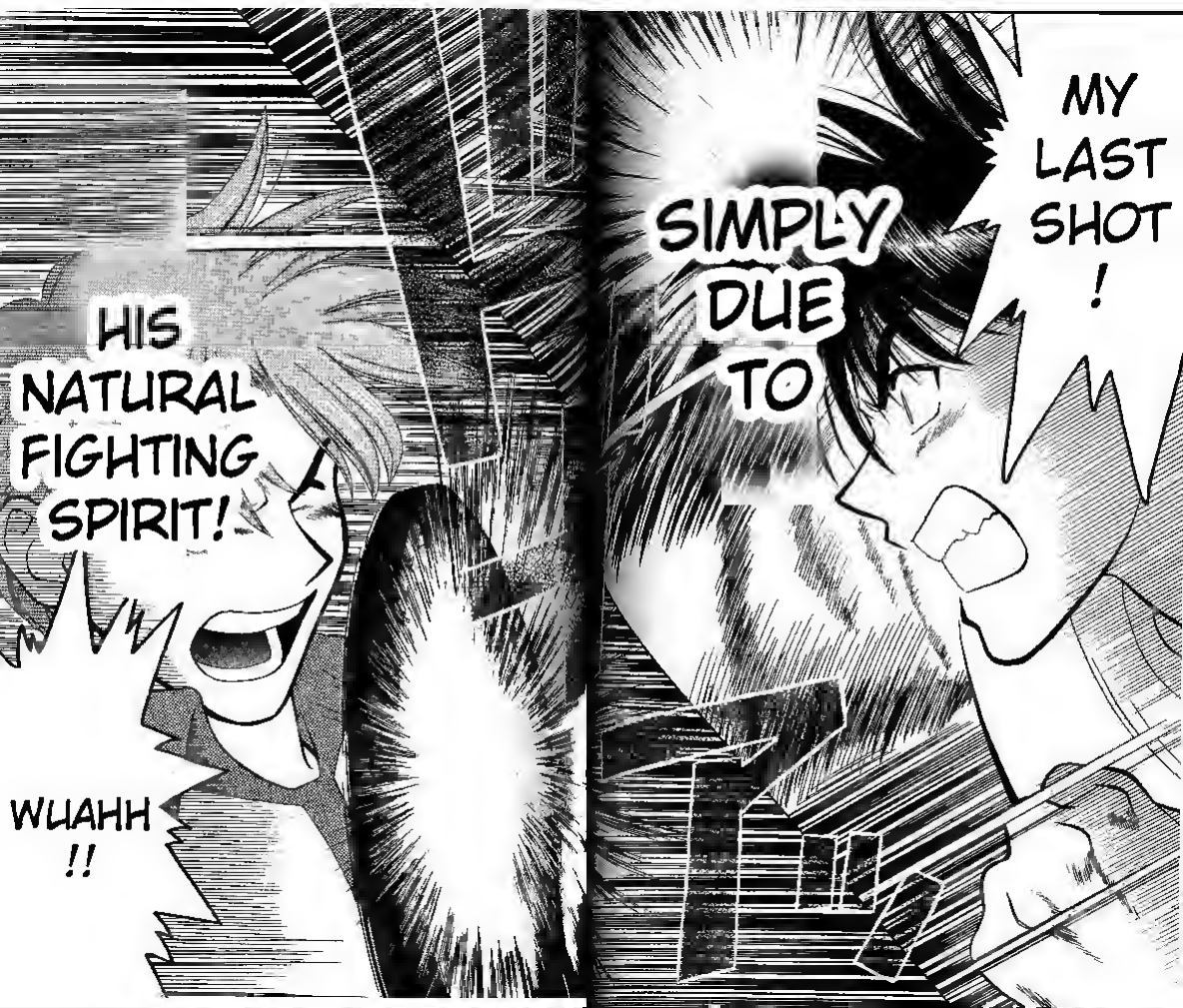
ビシッ
!!
MIKI.
YES?
HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER WATCHING THEIR MOVEMENTS?

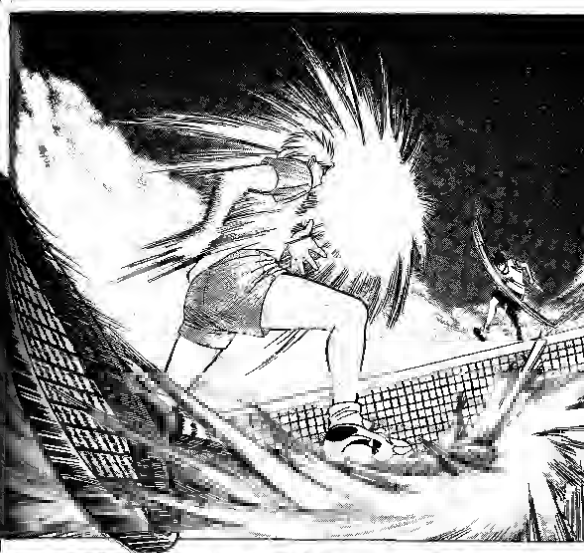

WELL,
NO MATTER HOW YOU SEE IT, IT SEEMS LIKE BROTHER IS MAKING TAKANO RUN CEASELESSLY ACROSS THE COURT.

BUT IN FACT,
ALL THE BALLS THAT TAKANO ARE HITTING ARE AIMED DIRECTLY TOWARD SANO'S BODY!
HOHOHO... THAT'S WHAT IT NORMALLY SEEMS LIKE.
BROTHER ATTACKS, TAKANO DEFENDS ....

SANO HAS TO USE ALL HIS STRENGTH JUST TO RETURN THE BALLS PROPERLY
!!
SO IN THE END, SANO IS THE ONE BEING TRAPPED...
AND TAKANO KEEPS ATTACKING THE SAME SPOT OVER AND OVER AGAIN..

BUT I DON'T THINK HE ACTUALLY PLANNED ALL THIS OUT.
CRAP!
ぱし
THIS IS...
TO HIM,
MIWA TORI


MY LAST SHOT!
SIMPLY DUE TO
HIS NATURAL FIGHTING SPIRIT!
WUAHH!!



BROTHER!

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING? HEY!

佐野
1
0
1
2
高野
6
6
GAME OVER!
TAKANO WINS!
OHHH...
?
WHOO
WH...
WHOO

I WON!
THIS FEELS GREAT!
SINCE YOU ARE MY OPPONENT, I'LL LET YOU WIN THIS ONCE.
BEATEN BY MY OWN STUDENT.
MAN,
BUT,

TODAY'S ELIMINATION MATCH,
YOU DID VERY WELL.
AFTER WATCHING YOU, YOU REMIND ME OF HOW I USED TO PLAY TENNIS

WHAT'S THAT?
BODY SHOT?
THEY USED TO CALL ME "BODY SHOT HARUCHIKO"
I ALSO EMPHASIZED ON ATTACKING JUST LIKE YOU.
BODY SHOT IS WHEN YOU AIM THE BALL AT YOUR OPPONENT'S BODY.
I SEE, HOW COOL!
BUT YOU'RE WAY BETTER THAN ME
ALTHOUGH THE NAME SOUNDS CORNY
I THINK THE BASIS FOR WINNING IS ATTACKING.

AFTER ALL, TENNIS IS AN OFFENSIVE SPORT!
I USED TO HATE CLUB SPORTS, BUT NOW I FINALLY HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO!
がくん
がくん
YOU THINK SO TOO, COACH?
YEAH! I LOVE TENNIS EVEN MORE NOW!
THE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS IS NEXT.
WHAT'S YOUR GOAL THERE?
"SUDDEN JOLT"

SAKI ...
SAKI!
OH! THAT GUY! THE ONE WHO DEFEATED EVERYONE AT THE NATIONALS?
HE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE ME MY FIRST LOSS.
MY NEXT GOAL IS TO DEFEAT SAKI!
CHAPTER 3 END

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EDITOR: L33TMASTER

YO EVERYONE! SORRY ABOUT TAKING TWO WEEKS ON THE RELEASE, I WAS KIND OF CAUGHT UP IN SHURA NO MON SO I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DO AGE, BUT IT'S DONE NOW AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS. HOPEFULLY THE NEXT FEW RELEASES WON'T TAKE SO LONG. THE NEXT CHAPTER WILL BE THE LAST ONE IN THIS VOLUME, SO I'M PRETTY EXCITED THAT THIS GROUP THAT I THOUGHT WOULD DIE AFTER ONE RELEASE IS ACTUALLY GOING ON TO COMPLETE A VOLUME :P

-L33TMASTER